ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

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TEMPLE OF THE SEVEN DOLLS

BY VLADIMIR N. GERCKE*

In 1956,archaeologists of the Middle American Research Institute of Tulane University of Louisiana began excavations at Dzibilchaltun (pronounced as "Dzeeb-eel-chal-toon"), a Mayan site about 15 miles north of Merida, the capital city of the State of Yucatan, Mexico. (See National Geographic Magazine, January, 1959).Covering an area of 20 square miles, the ruins of Dzibilchaltun are estimated to be the largest and longest inhabited of any city of ancient America, spanning some 3500 years of continuous use, terminating in the 16th Century AD.

The grandiose scale of the layout of Dzibilchaltun is truly remarkable. In the center of the city an enormous thoroughfare extends for one and one-half miles, along which on each side are gigantic decks which supported temples and other complexes. One of these, the so-called Palace Complex, covers more than 12 acres, larger than the principal portion of the Maya site of Chichen Itzá, just 75 miles away to the east.

Dubbed the "Great White Way" by the archaeologists ("sacbe" in Mayan), the causeway is 60 feet wide (as wide as a four-lane highway) and as much as 8 feet high in some places to achieve a level surface. Built of stone blocks covered with gravel and paved with white cement at the top, it is estimated that 700 million pounds of limestone were used in the causeway's construction.

The archaeologists considered the building of this structure to be a "fantastic feat", because they concluded that "these neolithic people had no metal tools and could quarry the local limestone only with sharpened fragments of harder stone."

Pondering the purpose of this engineering marvel, the archaeologists concluded that it was "primarily esthetic or ceremonial", because they ruled out the possibility that the ancient Mayans knew the wheel, or vehicles, or had domesticated beasts.

At the eastern end of the "Great White Way" sits the "Temple of the Seven Dolls"which was completely covered with rubble and appeared as a large mound in 1956. Excavation of the pyramidal mound began in 1957 and after four and one-half months, more than 3000 tons of stone rubble had been cleared from the top to reveal the temple itself, which is built at the top of an almost perfectly preserved pyramid structure, then still covered with rubble.

*Mr. Gercke is a retired electronics engineer,whose hobby is amateur astronomy. Having made 13 trips to the Yucatan,Mr. Gercke has concentrated his efforts on Mayan astronomy and has amassed evidence that the Mayas used telescopes. His research was the basis for Andrew Tomas's article "Enigmas of Mayan Astronomy" published in Ancient Skies 14:1. He has made many telescopes of various kinds himself. Mr. Gercke's address is Box 143, Weimar, CA 95736 USA.

Temple of the Seven Dolls, Dzibilchaltun, Yucatan, Mexico. Sr. Eleazar Canul stands beside the granite "needle" 300 feet away from the temple. Photo by the author.

The walls of the Temple of the Seven Dolls are formed of huge stone slabs, 3 to 4 feet thick. The lower sections had been covered with stucco, which had been artistically worked into a decorative,high relief frieze, depicting birds, fish, sting rays and ornamental objects.

Buried beneath the floor of the temple, in the exact center of the sanctuary floor, the excavators discovered seven small dolls, crudely modeled of unpainted clay,each of a human figure with some deformity - hunchbacks, a dwarf, a swollen stomach, extended genital organs, etc. The "experts" suggest that the 3 to 4 inch long figures "may have been priestly devices for curing disease." Hence the name "Temple of the Seven Dolls."

As the excavation of the temple progressed, there was a sense of excitement among the workers when they uncovered what appeared to be the tops of two windows. This was difficult for the archaeologists to believe, because no edifice uncovered up to that time in Meso-America had revealed windows. Rather, the openings always extended to the floor. The archaeologists became elated when two and one-half feet farther down they discovered the sills and they had uncovered "true Maya windows as we use the term today, unlike the small ventilation openings found in most Maya buildings."

But let us see how "true" these windows are. In 1980, I visited Dzibilchaltun with my Maya friend and guide, Sr. Eleazar Canul, and we spent some time at the Temple of the Seven Dolls.The "windows" are placed into a wall of the temple, one on each side of a doorway, which is in the center of the

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wall. The thickness of the temple wall makes the "windows"look more like two,four-foot long tunnels. Not much light could get inside through them. Upon further investigation, we found that the "windows" are not parallel,but rather they are placed in such a way that lines extended through the center of each "tunnel" to the outside will converge at a point several hundred feet in front of the temple.

This aroused our interest and Sr. Canul and I began walking towards that point over a rough terrain. At about 300 feet we came upon a piece of granite about 2 feet by 2 feet in cross section and about 6 feet tall, standing upright. The stone is of very rough finish and it was apparent that the top had been broken off. Since there are no granite quarries in Yucatan, we were puzzled.

Not far from us we spotted an old Mayan man gathering dead brush for firewood. We approached him and learned that he lived in a nearby village where none of the inhabitants spoke English or Spanish, only a form of Mayan. Fortunately Sr. Canul, being Mayan and having been born in a similar village, could talk with the old man.

The old man related that originally the granite "needle" was much taller and according to the legend, once a year the priests would give "something" to a small boy and instructed him to climb the "needle" and attach this "something" to the top. After a few days, the boy was instructed to again climb the "needle" to retrieve this "something."

The only other thing the old Mayan could remember about the legend was that the "needle" stood on a raised platform about 20 feet square, facing the Temple of the Seven Dolls. We began exploring the area surrounding the base of the "needle" and after a while, sure enough we discovered the traces of the platform.

The remainder of the story is speculation: the "something" which the boy placed at the top of the granite "needle" was probably a stone with a round hole in it the size of a dinner plate. The original height of the "needle" was such that the object with the round hole was situated at the same level as the two windows in the temple wall, some 300 feet away. The Maya priest-astronomers inside the temple could look through the four-foot long "tunnel windows" and see through the hole in the object at the top of the "needle". Priests looking through the left window could observe some bright star pass through the hole and disappear and a split-second later, the priests viewing through the right window could see the star through the hole. This provided the priests with an exact, to the second "beginning of the year", or some other calendar point.

Therefore, I believe that the Temple of the Seven Dolls was in fact built as an observatory and that the two "windows" were observation points, part of a unique kind of telescope.

Note: quotations in this article are from the article "Dzibilchaltun: Lost City of the Maya", by E. Wyllys Andrews, published in The National Geographic Magazine, January, 1959.

EXCERPTS FROM OPENING ADDRESS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY'S WORLD CONFERENCE IN NOVI VINODOLSKI, YUGOSLAVIA, SEPTEMBER 10, 1987 BY GENE M. PHILLIPS, FOUNDER OF THE SOCIETY

September 14, 1987 will mark the 14th Anniversary of the founding of the Ancient Astronaut Society. During the past 14 years, educators, engineers and scientists in almost every discipline have joined our Society because they share the desire of the lay person to look at the evidence with an open mind. Unfortunately, however, some scientific leaders have chosen to ridicule the ancient astronaut theory and its adherents and have used their considerable power to influence the media, publishers and others to effectively boycott our activities. As a result, it has become extremely difficult to have books in our field published in the English-speaking countries.

And yet, the Ancient Astronaut Society and its members around the world have made a profound impact upon the thinking of the scientific community. Fourteen years ago, most scientists absolutely refused to accept the possibility that there could be intelligent life in the Universe outside of Earth. Today, the very scientists who publicly ridiculed the idea of extraterrestrial intelligence, are now presenting it as their own idea and are accepting government grants to actively search for such intelligence - a complete reversal of their earlier position.

We are often asked if we have found any "new" evidence to support the ancient astronaut theory. This question usually comes from members of the media, because if we have nothing "new" and sensational to report,the press is not interested in presenting our theory to television viewers and newspaper and magazine readers.

The new evidence is, of course, still buried in the jungles, beneath the oceans, under the sands and in remote mountain regions, and this brings us to a major problem which we face today- the science of archaeology is at a virtual standstill throughout the world. Very little is being done by the archaeological community to unearth the remains of ancient cultures, and they will not let anyone else do it. Archaeologists have complete control over who digs for artifacts and where. It is impossible for the lay person, or even for organizations such as ours, to "dig" for new evidence.

In Mexico today, only archaeologists can "dig" for artifacts and they are becoming exceedingly jealous and protective of their field. Yet, they are doing very little to explore known archeological sites and to search for others; nor are they protecting the ones they have developed.At the now-famous site of Palenque in southern Mexico, only a small portion of the site has been cleared,although it is common knowledge that there are a great number of structures there which have not been touched. It was at Palenque in the Temple of Inscriptions that the burial crypt of "Pacal" was discovered almost 40 years ago, the first such tomb to have been found in a pyramid in Meso-America. It is highly likely that other structures at Palenque also contain tombs, but nothing is being done to search for them. Further, on a Society Member Expedition to Palenque ten years ago, we climbed to the top of a small hill covered completely with earth and vegetation, which was in fact a pyramid even larger than the Temple of Inscriptions. Called the "Forgotten Temple" by the locals, it seems to have indeed been forgotten by the archaeologists.

The sad truth is that even the sites which have been cleared and developed for public viewing are being allowed to deteriorate and very little time and money are being spent on their maintenance.

It was recently announced in the press that Mexico and Guatemala have been working secretly on a project to place power dams on the Usumacinta River, a border line between the two countries. If completed, this project would inundate about 500 square miles of rain forest, which hide and protect untold numbers of sites of the ancient Mayas and Lacandons. The waters of the reservoir would completely flood the ruins of the Mayan sites of Yaxchilan, Piedras Negras, Bonampak and many others. Whether the project will be completed is still open to question, but the important thing is that the archaeologists of both countries apparently are doing nothing to proceed to explore the region to discover new sites and examine them before they are covered with water.

We have proved that lay persons with open and enquiring minds can and do find new evidence to support the ancient astronaut theory, and they view the old evidence in a completely new, more modern light. The search has just begun, but we would like to see more rapid progress. We would like to present the ultimate proof in our lifetimes.

PREHISTORIC CIVILIZATIONS

BY TED POWELL*

Concerning Andrew Tomas's most interesting papers in Ancient Skies 13:5 and 14:1, it might be pointed out that the common source of prehistoric technology hinted at by various tribal legends and scraps of archaeological and historical data, were not necessarily wholly rooted in alien visitations. At least three other sources are reasonably responsible, one of which was the great Alexandria Library in Egypt with 700,000 volumes containing virtually all of the knowledge of ancient and prehistoric civilizations. Significantly enough, a Greek historian wrote a historical work titled "Ancient Civilizations", so the ancients had their ancients. At least two other sources were two advanced civilizations, both of whose continents were destroyed by cataclysms on opposite sides of this planet, one in approximately 12,000 BC, and the other in the winter of 9,654 BC, according to a date given in the Tibetan Dzyan Bible. (The Alexandria Library was later destroyed by fanatic Islamic and Christian religious mobs in two separate, mindless and tragic attacks, which were earlier paralleled by the burning of all books in ancient China by a despotic Emperor. These two historical tragedies drew down a dark screen which cut off modern man from his prehistoric roots).

The above comments shed some light upon the intellectually brilliant Greeks, who may not have been quite so creatively brilliant as generally pictured in most mathematical and scientific works. As pointed out to the visiting Greek, Solon, by the Egyptian priests and scribes with fatherly and patronizing smiles, the Greeks were mere babes-in-the-woods, newcomers to the world's historical scene. Without wishing to join the "debunker" clique, the rather significant point might be made that the Greek author of the classic "Elements of Geometry", Euclid, was for a time head librarian of that fountainhead of knowledge at Alexandria. It is also interesting to note that Apollonius, the Greek geometer who came close to anticipating Descartes's analytical geometry, also resided at Alexandria. The Greeks, except perhaps the genius mathematician-physicist Archimedes, generally had a rather coy way of not revealing their information reference sources; or just how they went about arriving at their remarkable scientific theories and ratio-metric theorums. Their reference sources were no doubt the works of earlier Greeks and the Alexandria volumes,and their surprising higher-order curve equations and solid geometry theorums may have been first "fudged" out with the aid of mechanical "computers" and wooden models.

It is also interesting to note that the earlier Sumerian clay tablets recently discovered by Neugebauer and others, after decoding, were found to contain surprising algebraic cubic equations and trigonometry tables. This indicated that the prior Sumerians surpassed the Greeks not only in algebra and trigonometry, but also perhaps in astronomy as well. These points are brought out not for "debunking" purposes, but to show that once again some common prehistoric advanced technology was involved here.

Some of the Greek science theories on the atomic nature of matter may not necessarily have originated in Alexandria, but possibly in human anatomy. One has only to peer steadily into a cloudless sky, away from the Sun, with eyes focussed at infinity, to perceive the Brownian movement of molecules and the occasional minute flashes of nuclear-fission particles on the surfaces of the eyeballs. The ancients could also have stood silent and still inside a dark cave and eventually heard the shot-noise hiss of air molecules impinging upon their eardrums.

The Hindu,Sumerian and Greek Ptolemic sexagesimal number system calculations also point to some common prehistoric origin. The base-60 number system calculation method was employed by the Greek astronomer Ptolemy, mainly because fraction computation was made convenient, since 60 has so many divisors, while the Greco-Roman alpha-numeric systems were a nightmare here.

Both Asiatic and South American Indian as well as Mayan astronomy dealt with huge numbers,also pointing to some common prehistoric source since there was little connection with the level of technology existing within their societies. Again, the Greek Archimedes, who was one of the three greatest mathematicians of post-prehistoric times, dealt with astronomical numbers when he theoretically calculated the total number of grains of sand on this planet. This came close to the creation of integral calculus some 14 centuries ago when he brilliantly derived the formula for the area of a parabolic segment by summing a converging series.This was a most remarkable feat of calculation,considering the clumsy Grecian alpha-numeric number system then in use.

The Judeo-Christian Biblical allegorical myth of a sudden 7 day creation of the Earth, also points to prehistory. An advanced civilization in the Pacific, passed down its priests' and savants' legend that the Earth passed through 7 great archaeological epochs. This "myth" was then misinterpreted by the Hebraic scribes as simplistic "days". Here, as in other instances, the Bible is essentially correct when properly and allegorically interpreted, even where mankind's origins are concerned.

The puzzling and rather astonishing Admiral Piri Reis map of the Antarctic Continent's land mass also has a rational prehistory explanation. First, while the map itself may be only a few hundred years old, it is actually a copy of a prehistoric map tens of thousands of years old. Sometime about 51,000 BC an asteroid crashed into the Earth. The impact was so stupendous that it shook the whole planet,shifted it in its orbit,shattered continents and altered its spin-axis. The cataclysmic meteorological, marine and geological events that followed were so catastrophic and involved as to be too lengthy to detail here, but at any rate, before this monstrous event, the Antarctic was fertile and situated near the former equatorial circle. This is the reason why the coastlines of north and south America are so vaguely drawn on the map, because they were geologically indistinct. At that time, the North American Continent was a half-sunken, watery wasteland of waterways, swamps and reed marshes, while two former continents existed in the Pacific and Atlantic regions, contrary to the pontifical tenants of modern-day pundits.

While aliens not only actually visited this planet on numerous occasions in the remote past and collaborated with some of its more advanced civilizations, they also settled here and inter-married with humans. However, the mystery of fragmentary evidence of prehistoric technology also had its roots in some advanced prehistoric civilizations, among which at least two actually surpassed ours in several categories, namely, solar plus earth-spin, energy-vortex power systems of enormous power potential; ultra-high-power laser and maser energy beams; anti-gravity techniques; nuclear energy; electron-stripped atom-core super-alloys which were "created at solar temperatures" and "felt cold to the touch"; and synthetic genetics without the need for animal bodies. Some of their technology references rested in the destroyed Alexandria Library, in the Tibetan Dzyan Bible, in Asiatic Indian ancient records, and in legends handed down by the Indians of north and south America and in Egypt and Tibet.

South American Indian legends mention gods who "came from a great land in the eastern sea and made

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giant stones float through the air". North American Indian myths claim that their ancestors "came from a land in the rising sun sea". Ancient Egyptian legends speak of gods who "came to Egypt from a land in the western sea, long, long ago". Tibetan monks displayed clay tablets to visiting antiquity researchers and stated that they were brought to Tibet over 20,000 years ago by civilized traders "from a land in the great eastern sea" and so long ago that "there is no memory of who they were". Other South American legends tell of gods who "came down out of the sky in fiery boats and stayed to live with us."

Continued archaeological research will eventually disclose historical and technological records of great prehistoric civilizations on Earth which will alter our concept that we live in the "dawn of civilization", and will show that ours was a 5000 year "dark age" of barbarism and savagery which followed the cataclysmic destruction of at least two great civilizations.

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THE 12TH PLANET NEARS?

Although it could still be several hundred years away from the vicinity of Earth, Zecharia Sitchin's 12th planet of the Sumerians is becoming closer to reality. The U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced that data from its Pioneer space probes suggest that there may, in fact, be another planet in our solar system orbiting the Sun every 700 to 1000 years.

John Anderson, a researcher for the Pioneer project at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California, said that a possible 10th planet with five times the mass of Earth is a "good possibility and a good working hypothesis." If the theory is correct, the new planet "travels in an elongated orbit that is at nearly a right angle to the orbits of the nine known planets," Anderson said. See Figure 1. The NASA sketch shows the new planet being brought into the vicinity of Jupiter.

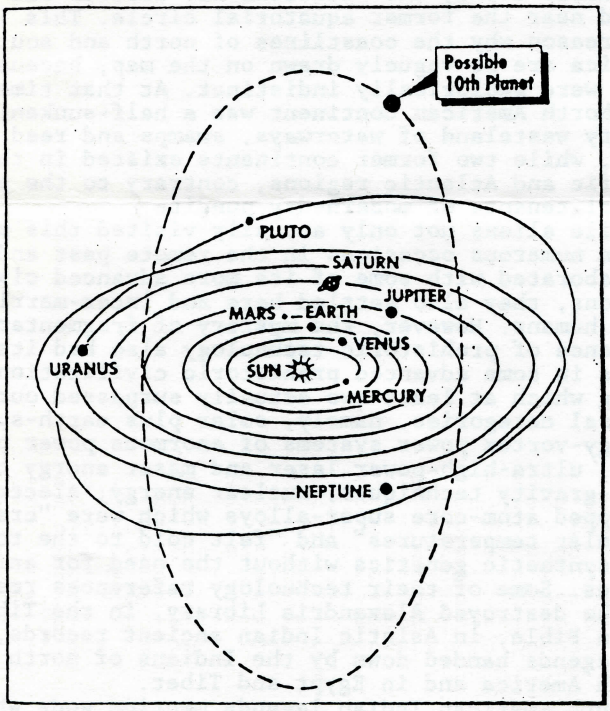

Figure 1. NASA sketch of possible 10th Planet

In his book The 12th Planet, first published in 1976, Zecharia Sitchin claimed that the existence of another planet in our solar system was known to the Sumerians 6000 years ago. (The Sumerians considered the solar system as having twelve members - ten planets, the Sun and our Moon). Sitchin reproduced texts written on clay tablets and pictorial depictions on cylinder seals to conclude that the Sumerians (who flourished in what is today Iraq) knew of a solar system consisting of twelve members, including ten planets, rather than the nine known to us today. Thus, the Sumerians were aware thousands of years ago of the existence of Uranus, Neptune and Pluto - planets discovered by modern astronomers relatively recently.

The Sumerians called the 10th planet (Sitchin's 12th planet) NIBIRU, the Planet of the Crossing, and its symbol was a cross. The later Babylonians renamed it MARDUK, in honor of their national god. According to Sitchin, the new planet has an elongated orbit which brings it near Earth, between Jupiter and Mars, once in 3600 years. See Figure 2.

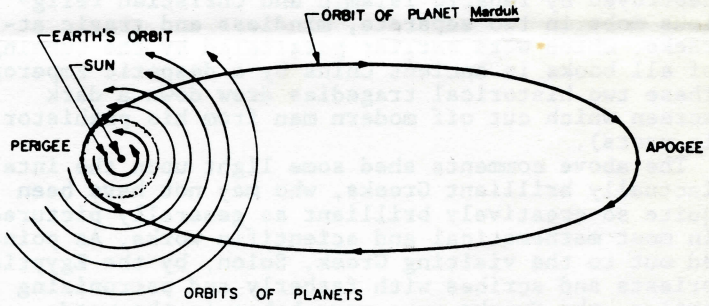

Figure 2. Sketch of 10th Planet's orbit from Zecharia Sitchin's book The 12th Planet, published in 1976.

The book The 12th Planet and its sequels The Stairway to Heaven and The Wars of Gods and Men are published as The Earth Chronicles and are available in paperback from Avon Books, New York. Mr. Sitchin is a biblical scholar and linguist. His address is 310 W. 86th Street, New York, New York 10024 USA.

THE NEXT WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY will be held at the Hotel Lisanj in Novi Vinodolski, Yugoslavia, September 10-12, 1987. Speakers include:

From Austria: Viktor Farkas and Peter Krassa
From Mexico: Gerardo Levet
From Switzerland: Erich von Daniken
From the USA: Richard T. Crowe, Dr. Walter Murawski and Gene M. Phillips
From the USSR: Dr. Igor Lisevic and Dr. Vladimir Rubtsov
From West Germany: Johannes von Buttlar, Peter Fiebag, Walter Jorg Langbein, Thomas Riemer, Dr. Harry Ruppe, Rudolf Schafer and Ralf Sonnenberg.
From Yugoslavia: Dr. Ivan Kovacevich

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